

Future travelers down
Hwy. 69 might ask,
**Isn't there a
college
around here
somewhere?**



Photo/Brandon Lovett

This construction site near Shelton State may look bare now, but just wait until it's finished.

Is Wal-Mart coming to the Shelton State campus area? One anonymous source told the *Courier* a small "home-town" Wal-Mart is being planned for part of the 122-acre site being cleared behind Winn Dixie, just in front of the campus. According to this source, it would concentrate its offerings on groceries, cosmetics, hygiene products, pet food, jewelry and other small items, and would not be a super-size facility.

**See Construction
Page 7**

'Champion' teacher visits campus

By Julie Shukla
Staff Writer

Teaching can be a difficult task sometimes, and often, it might take someone or something to give teachers that extra push.

For the National Teacher of the Year, Betsy Rogers, a teacher at Leeds Elementary School, it took a six-year-old boy who was born prematurely with severe handicaps to give her inspiration by showing her what a champion is. He was truly the "spirit of survival," according to Rogers.

Rogers shared this story with faculty and students at Shelton State's second annual Breakfast of Champions on Oct. 1 where Rogers was the special guest speaker.

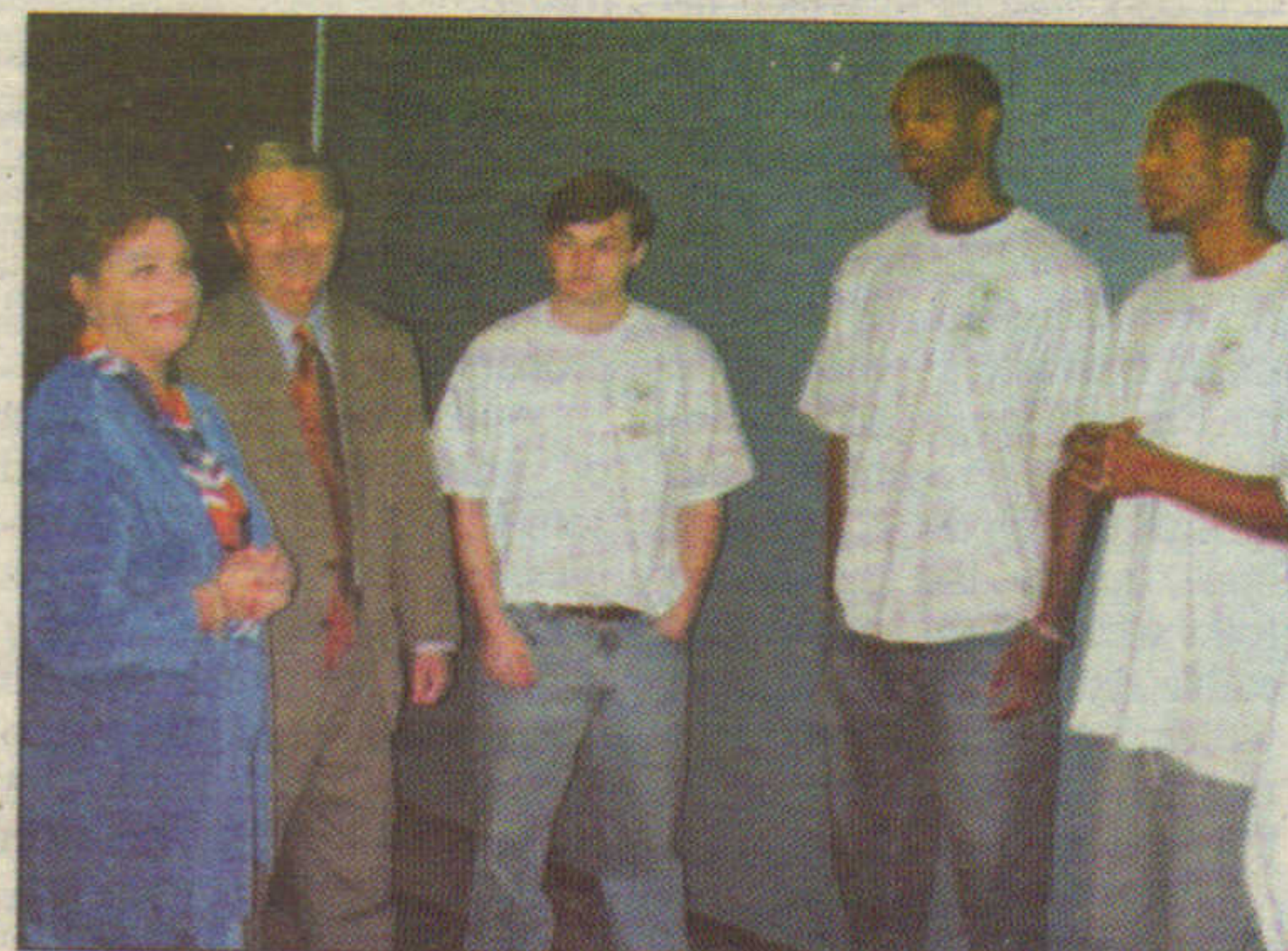
The Breakfast of Champions is just part of the Quality Month activities

planned for October.

Rogers, a champion herself, also shared her experience on how she became the teacher of the year. According to Rogers, after a professor at Birmingham Southern decided to support this award by giving every school \$50 to nominate a teacher, Leeds Elementary decided to participate for the first time, and the faculty nominated Rogers.

After much time, Rogers became one of the four finalists who went to Washington. Rogers said, "Just being a finalist was more than I ever dreamed."

After winning the award, Rogers realized that this was a shared recognition among teachers, students and the state. According to Rogers, one of the things that helped her get to where she is today was accomplishing her goal to



Photo/Dr. Jim Kenny

National Teacher of the Year Dr. Betsy Rogers chats with Shelton President Rick Rogers (no relation) and members of the state champion Buccaneer basketball team after the Breakfast of Champions.

receive her doctorate before she turned 50, which she

**See Champion
Page 7**

They were here; now they're gone...

Students from all over West Alabama explored the countless college and career options available to them at the Tuscaloosa College and Career Expo 2003 held on Sept. 29.

Shelton State and The University of Alabama, along with the Tuscaloosa City and County School Systems, hosted the activity.

While visiting Shelton, students were able to explore each of the college's 20 Career Technology division's informational booths complete with representation from over 30 businesses and industries from the West Alabama Community.

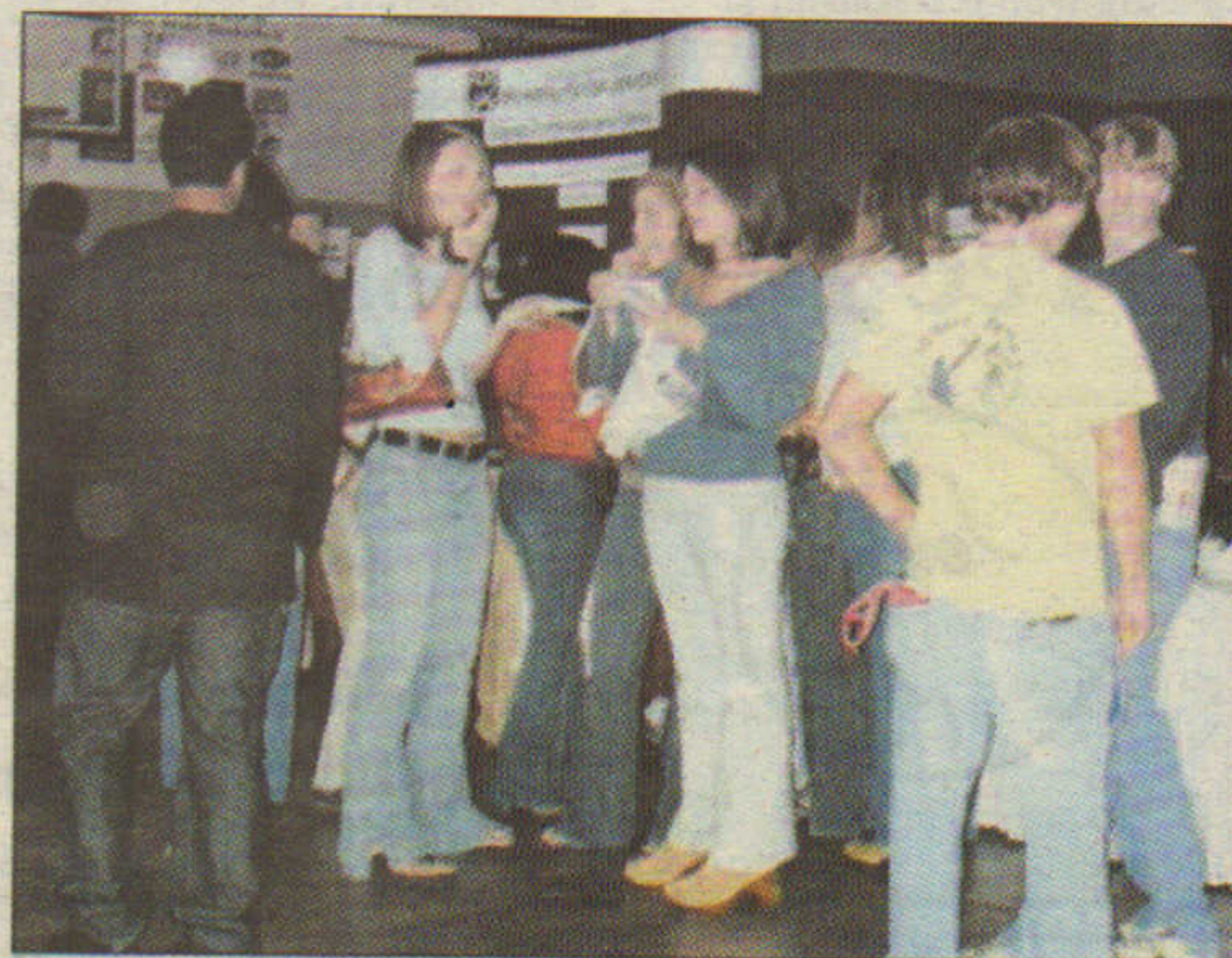
This allowed students the

opportunity to investigate career options and the training needed to obtain their career goals. Training is available for those with nearly any interest.

"The workforce is continuing to grow and change on a daily basis. Our desire is for the students of West Alabama to be well prepared to step into a rewarding career.

Shelton State's Career Technology programs offer the latest training on state of the art equipment and the Career Expo is a great way to introduce them to what we have to offer," said Shelton State President Rick Rogers.

**See And they may
be back, Page 3**



Photo/Brandon Lovett

West Alabama students participate in the Tuscaloosa Career and College Expo on Sept. 29.

Inside The Courier

- Blackshear sings for the tape recorder
- Kritix Korner Komeback
- Soccer diarist runs into ugly naked guy
- Show off your creative side
- And much more!



Look for the sales, discount coupons and special notices in the Courier's ads. For advertising information, call 391-2278.

Off the Shelf...

By Glen Johnson

Larry Brown loves us Southerners. And the more twisted and convoluted we are, the better he likes us. That's because we provide the rich dark humus in which he grows his stories, full of the dynamically outlandish characters we see and interact with every day.

And Mr. Brown, being from Mississippi, is able to raise characters who while making us laugh and sometimes sigh with sympathy are always true to the convincing bone, unlike the overdrawn folks we often find at the vegetable stands of non-Southern writers who just set their stories here to take advantage of the local color.

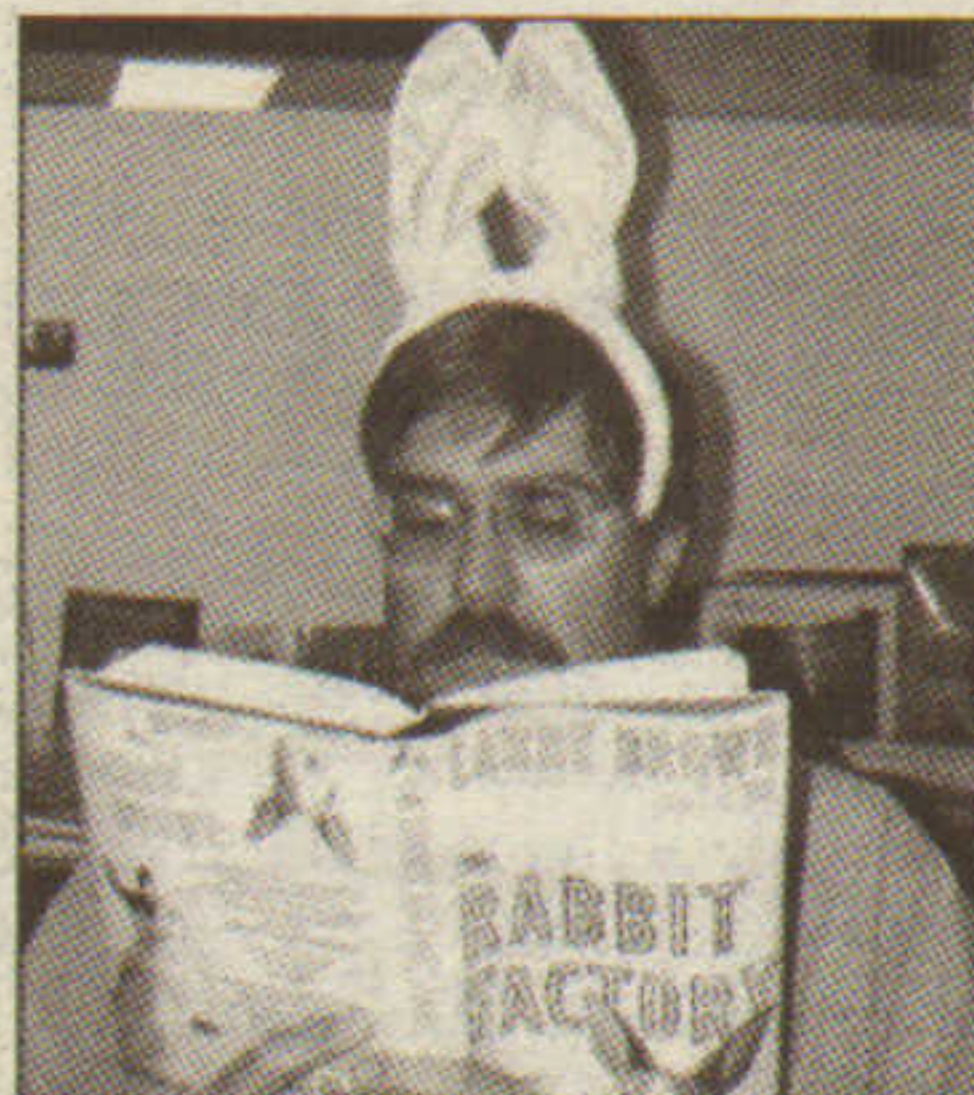
Brown takes this gardenful in his latest book, *The Rabbit Factory*, and, right from the start, begins winding his characters' diverse and divergent stories into a satisfying piece

of whole cloth. The characters search for meaning in their lives and fulfillment of their dreams, longings and loves (or at least the lusts they mistake for it).

It's understandable that Brown's previous best-seller *Fay: A Novel* has been likened in structure and development to Robert Altman's classic movie *Nashville*. This one will probably be too.

And what a bushel basket of amazing, lovable, and sometimes terrifying personalities he has harvested this time. There's Arthur an older gentleman of some wealth who's concerned his much younger wife Helen may not be completely satisfied with him as a husband. Helen substantiated his fears by hopping from one set of male arms to another and then to another etc. etc. etc.

There's teenager Eric



Photo/Brandon Lovett

who's run away from home in an attempt to avenge himself on the father who doesn't (Eric thinks) want him and in turn becomes Arthur's substitute for the son he never had.

Add Domino, ex-con and, at present, working in the drug trade and Anjalee a prostitute with a good heart and big bag of problems who barrels across the landscape like a freight train and you've got the makings for a fine novel.

Depression and you

Do you feel sad or "empty"?

Have your grades been failing?

Have you had problems dealing with relationships?

Or loss of interest in being around friends and family?

You may be depressed.

Studies show that between 30-50 percent of college students show signs of depression.

If you have more questions than answers, we have someone who may be able to help. Depression is treatable.

Phi Theta Kappa will

sponsor *free* depression screenings as part of Mental Health Week on Tuesday Oct. 14 between 12 and 5:30 pm and on Wednesday Oct. 15 between 12 and 4 pm.

No appointment is necessary, and your information is confidential.

Free Depression Screening

Tuesday, Oct. 14 12 until 5:30

Wednesday, Oct. 15 12 until 4

Come to room 3620

No appointment necessary

Confidential screening provided by

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Adults preparing for college workshop - Oct. 7

Shelton State Community College invites all adults who are thinking about enrolling in college but need some assistance with getting started to the Adults Preparing for College Workshop on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 6:30 pm in the Martin Campus Atrium.

This workshop will offer assistance with starting the admissions process, completing financial aid applications, finding out which classes will meet your educational and career goals, and most importantly, developing a schedule that will fit into your lifestyle.

Theatre department offers free movies for October

A different movie every Wednesday in the Recital Hall at 2 p.m.

October 8 *Twelfth Night*

Delightfully comic tale of mistaken identities revolves around the physical likeness between Sebastian and his twin sister Viola, each of whom, when separated after a shipwreck, believes the other to be dead.

Filled with superb comedy, this entertaining masterpiece remains one of Shakespeare's most popular and performed comedies.

October 15 *Aida*

This wonderful Italian opera takes place in the time of the Pharaohs in ancient Egypt. It is a story of love, life, deceit, and tragedy.

October 22 *A Doll's House*

Nora Helmer, wife to Torvald and mother of three children, appears to enjoy living the life of a pampered, indulged child. But as her economic dependence becomes brutally clear, Nora's acceptance of the status quo undergoes a profound change.

To the horror of the bewildered Torvald, himself caught in the tight web of a conservative society which demands that he exert strict control, Nora comes to see that the only possible true course of action is to leave the family home.

October 29 *A Mid Summer Night's Dream*

Unlike the great tragedies of Shakespeare's later period, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* neither plumbs deep truths nor explores complicated tensions of human existence. Rather, the play is what its title suggests: a dreamlike venture into a magical world, a gentle comedy that delights by means of its gossamer atmosphere and delicate poetry.

It tells several stories, each of which occurs during a single summer night in a magical forest outside Athens, in which fairies play pranks on lovesick mortals, earnest youths endure comical romantic confusion, and a group of rough craftsmen attempt to rehearse a play in secret.

Shelton State Courier

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic

freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The *Courier* is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

Kritix Korner

By Chris McNac



A Perfect Circle stirs a volatile potion into the melancholy rock pot-luck on "Thirteenth Step."

These are the crossroads where the artistically reluctant and Grammy hopefuls take the path of giggly bubblegum pop (dance coordinators in tow) and the avid believers of creating aesthetically sound substance part company with them. "Thirteenth Step," a Perfect Circle's follow-up to 2000's breakthrough debut "Mer de Noms," is where mellow psalms meet post-teenage angst and, when fused, create this stunning, yet tedious endeavor.

There's a certain brave ambition in creating music that is anything but radio-friendly and casting aside any concern of acclaim or album

sales. It's tempting just to pander to the mainstream.

But Maynard James Keenan, singer for A Perfect Circle, seems almost to be snickering apathetically, secretly knowing how beautiful his music is.

Throughout the entire tumultuous scenic route of Maynard's emotion-drenched palette, an epic is formed that goes against the pop-star grain and shapes a work of art with substance, obviously squeezed out of the singer's own pain, despair, and longing, delivered to the listener through vocals that soar at times, and whisper as a somber lullaby at others.

Most every track leaves you with a couple of catchy lines describing a feeling or thought you've never heard worded in such a way before, and it keeps you mulling over and thinking how cleverly they were put.

Ironically, the album starts with the line "if 'clever' got me this far, then 'tricky' got me in" which, after a listen or two, would seem most appropriately finished with the words "your mind" after this album casts its spell on you with devious perfection.

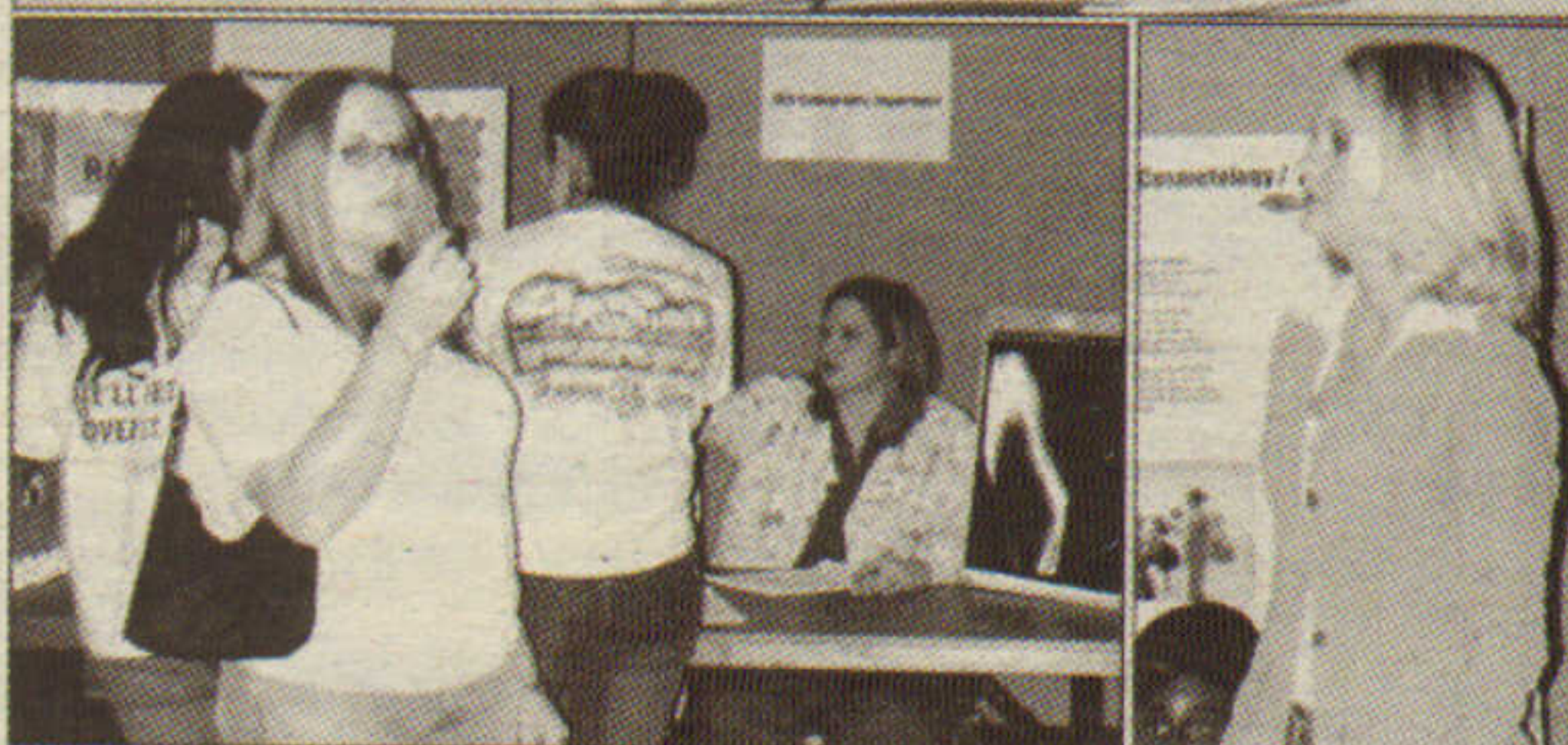
The surreal atmospheres and landscapes that even Bob Ross couldn't have painted are the captivating features that keep this album warm in your car stereo.

Every song tends to fuse together, and some shorter tracks are even used as quick interludes between the epics, as Maynard weaves searing lyrics through songs that build up like miniature "1812's" and eventually explode in the same dynamic fashion, though moodier, on this surprisingly sedating sophomore effort that tends to lull you into a hypnotic slumber of comfort.

Somewhere in the opening single, over a thick, driving bass line you learn to expect from every track, Maynard breathes the lines "little angel, go away/come again some other day/the devil has my ear today."

If this album was inspired out of anything the devil advised him on, then let us hope Maynard doesn't find religion anytime soon.

And they may be back From Page 1



Photos/Brandon Lovett

Tuscaloosa College and Career Expo

Hey you...



Yes, you reading this paper.

Are you an artist, photographer, painter or illustrator?

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The naked ugly guy and other travails: diary of a soccer season part two



Photo/Jason Collins

The Lady Bucs take a break to cool off and quench their thirst after a 0-0 overtime tie in a recent game against Hinds. The Lady Bucs host Mississippi Gulf Coast on Oct. 8 at 1 p.m.

By K.A. West
Staff Writer

The Lady Bucs have accomplished something no other Shelton State squad ever has: they beat national power Hinds College.

The Lady Eagles were ranked No. 7 in the nation until Sept. 22, when Shelton State beat them 2-0.

Shelton State also downed Mississippi Gulf Coast 2-0 on Sept. 24, but lost three days later at Bossier-Parish 3-1, which snapped a four-game win streak for the Lady Bucs.

On Oct. 1, Shelton State faced Hinds again and gutted out an 0-0 overtime tie.

"If we can stay consistent, there's no telling where this team can go," Shelton State head coach Nellie Christian said.

The Lady Bucs (8-4-2) host Mississippi Gulf Coast on Oct. 8 at 1 p.m.

On Sept. 16, the Shelton

State soccer team headed to Poplarville, Miss. to take on Pearl River Community College.

7:40 a.m. — Megan Young and I are the first ones to get to the bus, so we lucked out on great seats. Our bus is equipped with a VCR, TV monitors and speakers over some of the seats. So, the trick is to snag the seat that's in between a monitor and a speaker. (This is important pre-game strategy.)

8:30 a.m. — We roll out and immediately start *A League of Their Own*. "There's no crying in baseball!" — what a great line. Tom Hanks is the only actor I can think of who can play a grouchy, bitter drunk and still be likeable.

10:25 a.m. — First bathroom break as the movie winds down. Maria Lizcano, a freshman who grew up in Colombia, announces, "There are no Cheese Nips in America!" after a fruitless

search for the elusive snack in the gas station.

10:35 a.m. — The team wears khakis and cream-colored polo shirts on road trips. That type of outfit is just waiting for a ketchup stain or a drink spill, which is what happens to Dottie Sloan, whose shirt is the recipient of a teammate's orange soda. Dottie, a.k.a. "Raptor," simply strips off the shirt and wraps up in a blanket. She looks like she's headed to a toga party.

11:30 a.m. — Usually we get to road games early, but not today.

Since we're running behind, Coach stops at an Exxon/Subway and gets us a box full of turkey sandwiches and chips. Is there a better phrase in the English language than "free food"? While we were waiting for the food, sophomore defender Sabrina Wailes talks about raising a baby chicken and then releasing it into the woods. That thing would last about two hours before a raccoon or Labrador ate it.

12:40 p.m. — We're in the middle of *Son-In-Law*, a Pauly Shore classic as Teresa Herring, our goalkeeper, stops the movie and hands out personalized warm-up CDs that she'd burned on her laptop the night before to every player.

2 p.m. — We managed to get to the game in time to do our regular warm-up, but it turns out the referees wouldn't arrive for another 20 minutes. This is the school that has a wrought-iron fence encircling the bathrooms

with no stalls, just dividers that are about knee-high. The field has roofed stands and benches, but the actual playing surface is on a slope, so the ball rolled at least 50 yards downhill when it went out-of-bounds.

2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. — Today is one of those perfect days, sunny with a cool breeze.

Today is also the first time our team dominates from start to finish. Pearl River has a forward that might be faster than Megan, but thanks to our mid-field, which controlled the entire game, and Margaux Edington, the player in charge of shutting her down, their team couldn't get her the ball. Even after Coach switched the lineup around, everyone adjusted to it and did a good job of possessing the ball.

There's nothing worse than getting back on that bus for a long ride home after a loss, so winning 5-0 was very satisfying.

5:15 p.m. — We finished *Son-In-Law* and despite several votes for *Clueless*, we watched *Coyote Ugly*.

6:37 p.m. — We head home from Hattiesburg, home of the University of Southern Mississippi. We stopped there to eat at Barnhill's. Some of us didn't have time to eat dessert, so a couple of clever freshman used their napkin holders to transport gummi bears. We also sang "happy birthday" to Brandon Wailes, one of our managers, in a futile attempt to get a birthday cake from the kitchen.

7:15 p.m. — We pass an 18-wheeler driven by a man who resembles "Ugly Naked Guy," a well-known neighbor of TV's *Friends*. I guess driving in the buff is one way to stay cool inside a rig.

9:30 p.m. — We get back to Tuscaloosa in good time, with only one bathroom break. We won't hit the road again for another week, so until then...

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Q&A with Glinda Blackshear: *singer and teacher*

Fourth in a series of interviews with the people who make Shelton the community college of the arts in Alabama

Interviewed by
Emily M. Sartain
Staff Writer

Glinda Blackshear is a teacher of music and voice at Shelton. She knew from an early age that music was what she wanted to do in life.

"In third grade my teacher asked us to draw a picture of what we saw ourselves doing later in life. I drew myself in a long, beautiful evening gown with spotlights at my feet while I was singing. Apparently I knew even then what I wanted to do," said Blackshear.

Blackshear was born in Knoxville, Tenn., but at the age of eight she moved to Decatur.

What college did you attend?

I attended the University of Montevallo, because I wanted to attend a smaller campus with more opportunities to do things.

I received a scholarship from the University of Montevallo. I received both of my degrees from there in vocal performance.

What inspired you to go into the field of music?

I have always loved to sing. I took piano for years and it came fairly easy for me.

When I was a senior in high school I wrote off to all of these colleges that I wanted to major in music/drama/literature, because I thought that all three should tie into one another.

Back then it was not considered an option to major in all three, so they took my first choice and listed me as music major.

When I arrived at Montevallo I met the dean of the department and he told me if I was unsure of what I wanted to do, then I should take the music curriculum for a year and try it out.

He told me if I did not like it after that year to either minor

in music or change to another field. It only took me three weeks of being in the music major to know that was what I wanted to do. I have never had any doubts of my decision.

Have you worked at another college and how did you end up at Shelton?

My first job was at Wallace State in Selma. I met my husband, Alan Blackshear, also a teacher at Shelton, in Selma. He had to do doctoral work at the University of Alabama, so we moved to Tuscaloosa.

I was at a workshop and met the department chair at Shelton, Syble Coats, at conferences for two-year colleges and let her know that I was in town.

It just happened that there was someone about to be on maternity leave the first summer I was here.

At first I came on part-time for three years; then I had an interview for a full-time position and was offered the job.

Where are memorable places that you and your students have sung?

The first time for the Shelton Singers to travel was



Photo/Brandon Lovett

Glinda Blackshear, a teacher of music and voice at Shelton, exercises her own vocal chords while working with a student.

to Carnegie Hall in 1990. We took 45 people on that trip. That was the most memorable

See Blackshear
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Shelton should weather this year's cuts

By Russell C. Howard
Staff Writer

Alabama voters, defeating Governor Bob Riley's \$1.2 billion tax plan on Sept. 9, now await the impending dark cloud of the aftermath.

"While we are disappointed at the outcome, the voters of Alabama have spoken," Shelton State Dean of Students Humphrey Lee said. The Alabama legislature voted to cut the education budget by about \$25 million.

"We are disappointed and apprehensive about the potential funding short falls for the next few years," President Rick Rogers said.

Shelton State students are beginning to speculate about how these budget cuts are going to affect them in the near future. "Since the University of Alabama tuition

has increased, it seems inevitable that Shelton will soon follow suit," Shelton student Kristen Jones said.

Jones also said that she, as well as other students, are worried about their education finances and how they will deal with a tuition increase should it occur.

"We already pay over \$1,000 per semester in tuition," Jones said. "Maybe Shelton could use the money they are spending on shrubbery to help pay for the rising costs."

However, the landscaping improvements were paid for by grants, not tuition or education funding.

Officials at Shelton State have prepared a plan for preserving funds and avoiding having to directly affect the finances of their students.

Dean Lee said last year

that Alabama Chancellor of Education Johnson told them to prepare for a 7-8 percent cut in budget, which Lee says Shelton has adhered to.

Lee claims that if Johnson's plan is successful, then Shelton will be prepared for any shock dealt to the college by the budget cuts.

"This, coupled with enrollment growth, should allow us to continue to serve the citizens of West Alabama," Lee said. With one of the state's newer facilities and known as a leading fine arts college, Shelton State administrators now have a decisive road ahead as they fight to maintain the college's role in the community.

"As always, we will work very hard to ensure the quality of education will not be impacted by these limitations," Rogers said.

Music scholarships awarded

Lauren Howell, Julia Ayers, and Josh Noland have been awarded memorial scholarships in music, which have been donated to the college.

Ayers, a freshman music major with an emphasis in voice, is the recipient of the Madel Hicks Pearson Music Club Scholarship.

She is studying voice with Glinda Blackshear.

Howell, also a freshman music major, is the recipient of the first Billie Sue Brown Memorial Piano Scholarship.

She is studying piano with Syble Coats.

Noland, a sophomore majoring in music, is a second year recipient of the Billie Sue Brown Vocal



Photo/Dr. Jim Kenny

Three of the music department's latest scholarship recipients taking a break from choir practice. The top students are (L-R) Julia Ayers, Josh Noland and Lauren Howell.

Scholarship.

Noland is studying voice with Dr. Mark Brown.

All three students are from Tuscaloosa County.

Blackshear From Page 5

place for me.

It was awe-inspiring to stand on stage and realize that the most talented people have performed on that stage. Other places we have sung at were Orlando, a Disney Cruise ship in the Bahamas, Salt Lake City and Hawaii with the Honolulu Symphony.

Who inspired you?

I have had good school music teachers and church choir directors. My college voice teacher, Benjamin Middaugh, was the most inspiring to me. He has given me a great background to music.

Who is your favorite musician?

Right now my favorite musician is Thomas Hampson. He sings all styles of music and is also an actor. He has the whole package of great looks, acting and singing.

Have you ever performed professionally?

I have performed in oratorios and operas, but I would not consider any of the performances "professional."

Have you had any students to become professionals?

One of our students, Jill Lynn, studied with me here. She had to leave because she was hired at Dollywood to be a performer. She married a man in Tennessee who owns part of the entertainment complex. She opens for Dolly Parton, has done television commercials and television

shows.

How do you become a professional singer or musician in Alabama?

Certainly a lot of it is being in the right place at the right time. You have to have a good foundation.

You should know how to read music, know how to count rhythms, play an instrument, and you have to do voice study. You need all of this so that you are not at the mercy of others.

When did you start at Shelton?

I started at Shelton State in the fall of 1985.

What is your favorite solo performance?

My favorite solo performance was at the Bama Theater in musical theaters. I sang with Theater Tuscaloosa.

Many people have said that you have participated in beauty pageants. Is this true?

It is true that I have participated in beauty pageants a long time ago. I was a participant of the Miss Alabama pageant in 1969 and 1970. I have also helped with beauty pageants. I helped with Miss Shelton State, which is no longer at Shelton, for many years. A few of the winners of this pageant went on to participate in Miss Alabama.

How do you like your job at Shelton?

I feel like I am one of the most blessed people in the world, because I get to do what I love. Shelton is a wonderful place to work. Every day when I pull up to work, I am happy!



Shelton announces fall graduation Dec. 15

The deadline for applying for fall graduation is Oct. 31. Students can pick up their application in the

Admissions and Records Office. Graduating students, faculty, and staff can rent or purchase their cap and gown in the Shelton State Bookstore thru Oct. 24.

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Champion From Page 1

received in 2002.

This further led her to changing what she did in the classroom by becoming very data driven and research based. She also started the "looping" concept where she stays with her students their first and second grade years.

Rogers was an appropriate key speaker for the Breakfast of Champions, which is a program honoring faculty, staff and students who have received local, state and national recognition during the past year.

The honorees included Sara Brenizer, Michael Carr, Phillip Coleman, Debbie Hammons, Wendy Jones, Humphrey Lee, Gary McCracken, Barry Mohun, Sandra Ray Hall, Rick Rogers, the Shelton State Basketball Team, the Christmas Parade Committee, Kim I. Smith, Alicia Taylor, Jennifer Taylor, Madonna Thompson, the SI Team #1 in Educational Programs, and Jackie Williams.

According to Johnny Parker, director of personnel services at Shelton, all of these individuals were able to be



Photo/Dr. Jim Kenny

Among those honored at this year's Breakfast of Champions were (L-R back row) Dean Humphrey Lee, Bill Stringfellow, Kim I. Smith, Jackie Williams, Debbie Hammons, Barry Mohun, (front row) Jennifer Taylor, Dr. Betsy Ross, Sara Brenizer and Pam Stewart.

recognized at the Breakfast of Champions because of a project team called Quality Month Team.

This team is part of the entire body of the Total Quality Management. Parker said that the Total Quality Management was started in order for new employees to acquaint themselves with the idea of quality and what it means at Shelton.

Employees go through a training course that explains quality as a mind set and a skill set in which there are tools that can be used in the classroom. According to

Parker, once employees graduate from training, they are eligible to serve on Systems Improvement Teams (SI Teams) with the general purpose being to improve the processes and services within their assigned area in the college.

October has now been coined the National Quality Month and the Breakfast of Champions is the beginning of the observance. All of this relates to Shelton's theme this year, "Quality begins in the Classroom," which the faculty and staff plan to emphasize all year.

Construction From Page 1

So much for un-named sources.

What everyone now knows is that one-fourth of the land is being prepared for "about seven approved commercial lots, 41 proposed commercial lots, 83 single-family residential lots and approximately 212 apartment units." This is according to a Sept. 23 *Tuscaloosa News* article by Stephanie Hoops. Hoops's efforts to follow up from courthouse records was apparently as unsuccessful as

the *Courier's* efforts to follow up on the *News*.

The developers are, as usual, not eager to reveal their plans. But that does not lessen the speculation within the Shelton community when it comes to the future of the campus area.

An informal survey among Shelton students indicated that a slim majority of students are all for development of the area.

Fourteen of 27 respondents—or about 54 percent—said nothing built would take away from the attractiveness or reputation of the campus.

Call for entries for the 2003 Chancellor's Art Exhibition

Through the Chancellor's Art Exhibition, students and employees of the Alabama College System are allowed the opportunity to showcase their talents and creative ideas.

Categories include drawing and print, painting, photography, sculpture, folk art, and moving imagery.

The deadline for entering is Oct. 10.

For a complete listing of the rules and regulations and an entry form stop by the *Courier* office in room 2316.

ARE YOU A LEADER?

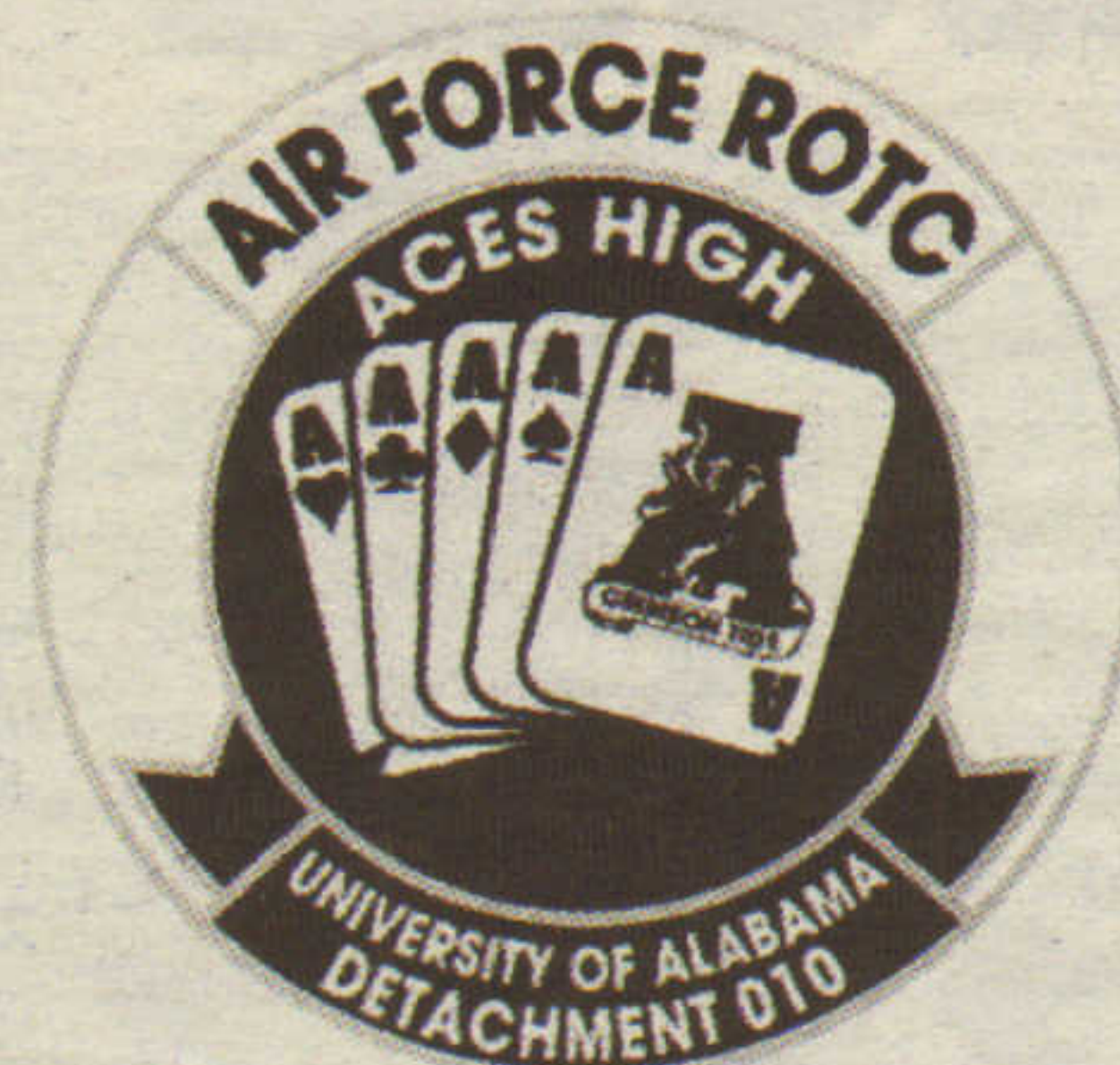
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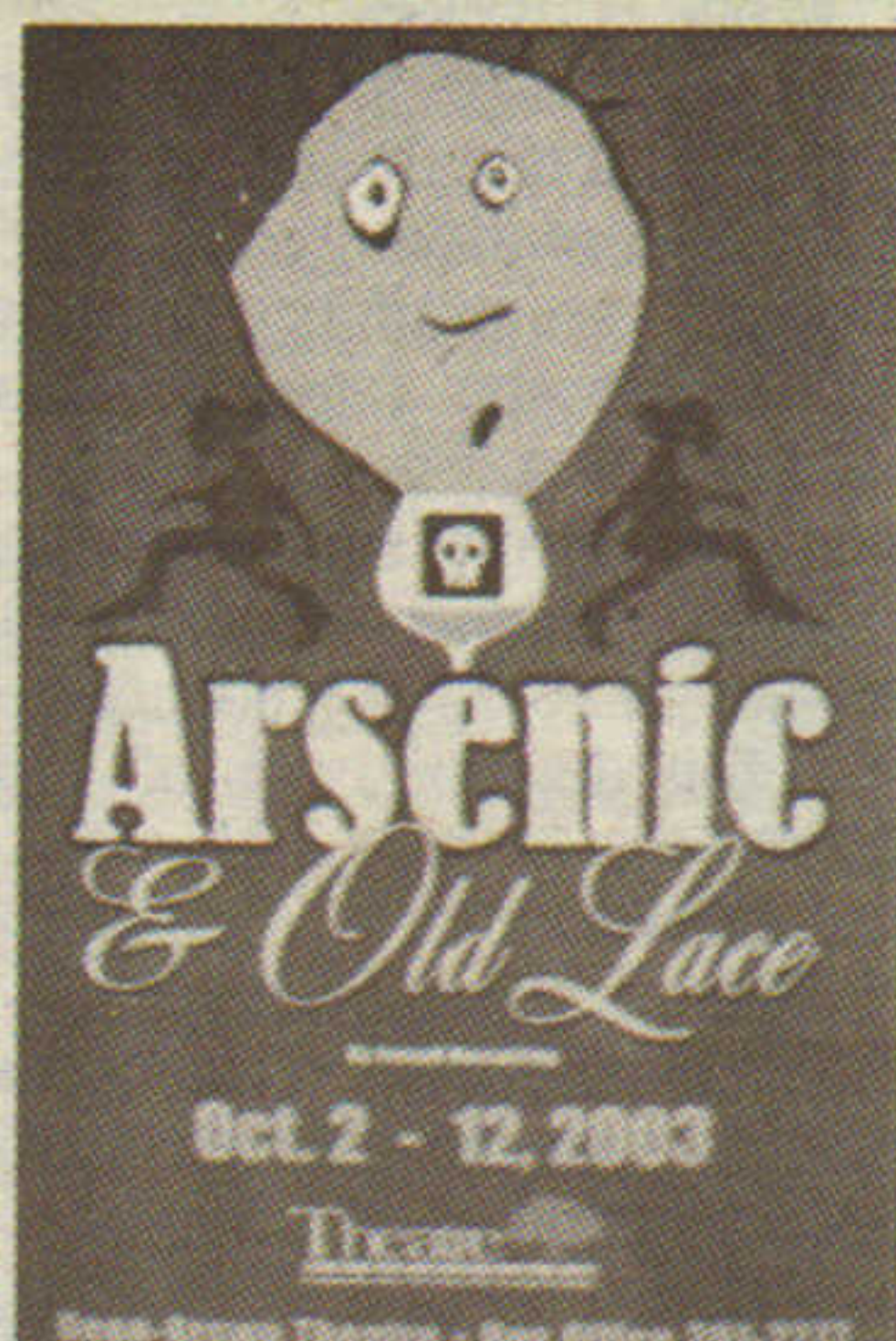
For additional information
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U.S. AIR FORCE
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Arsenic another ensemble *tour de force*



By Dr. Jim Kenny
Publisher

The greatest pleasure a theatre-goer to Theatre Tuscaloosa and the Bean-Brown has is the comfortable feeling you've seen it all before: the great sets, the crisp professional productions, the expert acting.

No matter the script, paying customers know they will be getting a legitimate, bona fide theatrical experience—just like downtown. Downtown New York, that is.

The run of Joseph Kesselring's *Arsenic & Old*

Lace underscores this point of view perfectly. The play itself is somewhat of a 60-year antique with several of its references and allusions proving a bit obscure to a contemporary audience. But no matter! That's precisely where old pros like actors Drew Baker, Charles Prosser, Ray Taylor, Gary Wise and Glen Johnson come in. The most fun is had in seeing what these hardy troopers can do with the material on hand. The answer this time is, as usual, a lot!

A young patron may not, for instance, get the references to Boris Karloff in relation to Gary Wise's depiction of Jonathan Brewster. But no matter! One look at Wise's scarred-up scary face or listening to one bit of his movie-monster delivery tells the audience all it needs to know.

Shelton librarian Glen Johnson provides another example. Hasn't Johnson hauled out that German accent before? Wasn't it *South Pacific* or maybe *Anne Frank*? No matter. Johnson's German-Jewish accent is a thick, serviceable one. One should just sit back and enjoy; we're all in good hands.

Other splendid veteran performances are turned in by Prosser who is ol' reliable when it comes to inhabiting a bigger-than-life character like Teddy Brewster. Likewise Taylor, about whom audiences are still buzzing over his legendary depiction of the emcee in *Cabaret*. This time he plays a would-be sophisticate who has forever lost his aplomb at the hands of his loony family. Gary Grant played the role in the 1944 movie, but...who cares?

Drew Baker is another T.T. stalwart who also teaches some theatre classes for the college. She and Kathy Wilson play the homicidal sisters with just the right touch of sweet horror.

No classic T.T. production would be complete without its contingent of featured players and guest stars. A room full of Brooklyn cops are convincingly portrayed by a slew of players, with a special nod to character actor Wescott Youngson whose broad, loud Brooklynese invokes several belly laughs.

As usual, you enter a theatrical comfort zone when you enter the Bean.

Story Time at Shelton State: *read to your children day*

Once upon a time there was a group of students that wanted to show the children of West Alabama how fun reading can be. So they decided to turn their school into an enchanted storybook land complete with characters right out of their favorite books and fun activities for everyone to enjoy. Story time will take on a whole new meaning when student members of the Enrichment, Development and Growth through Education (EDGE) group host Read to Your Children Day on Friday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Shelton State Community College C. A. Fredd Campus Cafetorium.

Day care centers and individuals are invited to bring their children ages four through the third grade. There is no charge for the event, and in addition to hearing some wonderful stories, the children will have the opportunity to participate in some unique hands-on activities related to each story. Members of EDGE, Phi Theta Kappa and the Shelton State faculty and staff will dress as characters from each of the books and

offer the children an opportunity for photos and autographs. Upon completion of the activities and character visits, each child will receive a goody bag which will include two books appropriate to their age level and a toothbrush.

EDGE is a learning community comprised of students who are enrolled in a developmental curriculum. Its purpose is to promote unity between students and offer them added support. Read to Your Children Day will offer them an opportunity to practice their reading and presentation skills.

Several of them are parents themselves and will take great joy in being able to read to their children and others during this event.

"This exciting event is a win-win situation for everyone involved," said Janice Filer, EDGE instructor. "Our students will gain valuable confidence in their reading ability while young children from all over the area will be entertained and the importance of reading will be reinforced in a fun, interactive environment," Filer added.

HELP!
This tree is attacking me!!

Theatre

T U S C A L O O S A

A cooperative effort with Shelton State Community College

Arsenic & Old Lace

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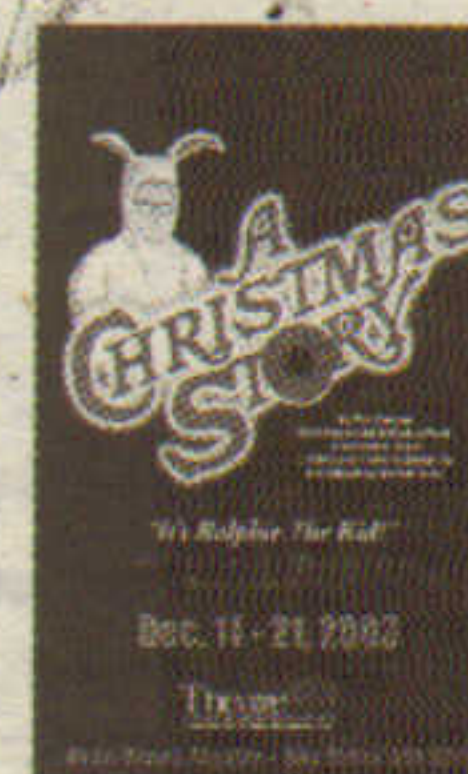
Oct. 2-12 2003

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